



EPA Provides Grant Application Assistance

EPA has two new on-line tools to help local governments apply for federal grants for brownfield assessment, cleanup or revolving loan funds. These grants provide up to \$200,000 per assessment or cleanup grant, and more for revolving loan funds. They are usually due in November or December; this year's deadline has not been announced yet. The first new tool is an overview of the general application requirements. The second tool is Model Responses to the Ranking Criteria, which may provide helpful examples of text for applications. Both are on-line at <http://www.clu-in.org/conf/tio/bfR5propguide/>. Use the "Go to Seminar" link for the overview, and use the "Links to Additional Resources" to find the model responses.

EPA has not yet announced this year's application guidelines, but last year's application guidelines are still on the internet at http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/assessment_grants.htm. Those planning to apply should start working now to select eligible sites and to complete the required pre-application tasks. EPA Region 5 is willing to answer questions from potential applicants and help them determine whether brownfield sites are eligible – the phone numbers for EPA staff are included in the on-line overview. DNR's summary of these federal grants, including "Tips for Applicants", is at http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/financial/federal_brflids.html. There is no local cost share for federal assessment grants.

Time to Update the Consultant List for Responsible Parties

Consultants may again update their information on our *Environmental Services Providers List*, on the web at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/archives/pubs/RR024.pdf>. This "name, address and phone number" listing is arranged by city and is intended to help responsible parties locate consultants that do environmental investigation and cleanup in Wisconsin. It is not an endorsement or certification. Consultants who need to add or amend a business entry on this list should contact Tom Fass, DNR, at Thomas.Fass@dnr.state.wi.us or at 608-267-3532 by the **end of July**.

In addition, we'll soon be updating our *Consultants and Contractors Survey*, which again will be required of all consultants who want to be considered for state-funded contracts with the RR Program. The information compiled from this survey will be used to select contractors for investigation and remediation projects where the state has decided to undertake the work because no responsible party is proceeding. For more information about this survey or state-funded contracts, you may also contact Tom Fass at the email address above.

Great Lakes Legacy Funds for Contaminated Sediments

EPA is requesting proposals for projects addressing contaminated sediments in Great Lakes areas of concern, with almost \$30 million available nationwide. The deadline for proposals is **September 15, 2006**. Legacy Act projects are based on a negotiated agreement between EPA and the non-federal sponsor. Funding is available to states, tribes, industry, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders. Projects must be located in

one of 31 designated Great Lakes areas, available on the Legacy Funds web site at <http://www.epa.gov/glla/>.

Top priority will be given to projects that 1) are a remedial action for contaminated sediment; 2) have a remedial action plan and are ready to be implemented; 3) use an innovative approach or technology that may provide greater environmental benefits, or equivalent environmental benefits at a reduced cost; or 4) where remediation will be started within one year of receipt of funds. Projects include, but are not limited to, remedial options such as dredging, capping, monitored natural recovery, treatment technologies, or a combination of remedial alternatives. For more information, visit the web site above or contact Marc Tuchman, EPA, at 312-353-1369 or at tuchman.marc@epa.gov.

New Remedial Action Bid Checklist for DERF

Our new *Remedial Action Bid Checklist* is now available at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/financial/dryclean.html#Info>. This checklist is a tool for environmental consultants preparing remedial action bids for the Dry Cleaner Environmental Response Fund (DERF). Chapter NR 169, Wis. Admin. Code, requires that each of these remedial action bids contain specific information before being considered complete, and that each bid must be complete before it can be compared to competing bids. Bidders should use the checklist to determine the completeness of their bid before they submit it to the dry cleaner owner/operator and to the DNR.

More about Legislation & the GIS Registry of Closed Remediation Sites

Wisconsin ACT 418, effective June 3, 2006, changed the way that the Departments of Natural Resources, Commerce and Agriculture approve completed cleanups where there is residual contamination. The state no longer uses deed restrictions to ensure appropriate land use in regard to the residual contamination. Instead, the conditions of land use are now described in case closure approval letters, which will be provided to the public on the internet in DNR's *GIS Registry of Closed Remediation Sites*.

- **Do you have a pending closure request?** If you are a responsible party or consultant with a conditional case closure approval from DNR that has never been finalized due to reluctance to record a deed restriction, now is a good time to pursue a final closure approval. This is especially if you've already paid the case closure and GIS Registry fees. If these fees were not already paid, you may pay them now. If you have questions about obtaining a final closure under the new legislation, please contact the DNR project manager who signed your conditional case closure letter. You may also check for geographic assignments of RR Program staff at http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/rr/technical/lists/county_contacts.pdf.

- **Is your GIS Registry data clear?** Due to the importance of the information in the *GIS Registry*, we ask that consultants submitting documents for the *Registry* make sure that their documents are clear and legible so they may be easily read on the internet. The best way to do this is to submit the documents electronically. DNR's guidance on electronic submittals is on the web at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/rr/archives/pubs/RR690.pdf>.

For a more detailed summary of the legislation, including questions and answers from DNR, please see <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/rr/brownfields/legislation.htm>. If you have questions, please contact Mark Gordon, DNR, at 608-266-7278 or Mark.Gordon@dnr.state.wi.us.